Attorney Docket No. 247273US-2SRD DIV

Inventor: Hirofumi MURATANI

Preliminary Amendment filed: January 8, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this divisional patent application in light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-8, 14-19 and 23-27 are presently active, Claims 1-3, 9-13, 20-22 and 28-32 canceled by the present preliminary amendment.

An early and favorable Office Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters

Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Phone (703) 413-3000

Fax (703) 413-2220

EHK:mlh

H:\DIVISIONAL APPLICATIONS\247273US-PREAMT.DOC